CURRENTLY PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting an execution plan for a query, comprising:

determining steps of the query execution plan for a parallel database system;

displaying the steps of the query execution plan in a graphical user interface; and

depicting parallel execution of steps of the query execution plan in the graphical user interface,

wherein depicting the parallel execution of steps comprises displaying plural elements corresponding to concurrently executing plural steps on respective processors of the parallel database system.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the steps comprises determining steps of the query execution plan for the parallel database system running in a multiprocessing platform having plural processors.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the steps comprises determining steps of the query execution plan for the parallel database system running in a platform having plural virtual processors to handle access to data in the parallel database system.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the plural elements comprises displaying plural icons.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the database management system is executable in a platform, and wherein displaying the icons comprises displaying one or more of the icons selected from the group consisting of an icon representing a table, an icon representing an operation performed on a component of

the platform, an icon representing a query statement, and icon representing an operation performed on two or more tables.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the steps of the query execution plan is performed by an optimizer.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein determining the steps of the query execution plan is performed by the optimizer based on emulated environment data of a target system, the optimizer and emulated environment data present in a test system, the target system comprising the parallel database system.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the steps of the query execution plan is performed in a test system based on emulated environment data of a target system that is separate from the test system, the target system comprising the parallel database system.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying explain text of the query execution plan.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein displaying the explain text comprises displaying the explain text in a first screen, and wherein displaying the steps of the query execution plan comprises displaying the steps in a second screen.

11. (Original) A method of testing performance of a query, comprising:

determining a first execution plan of the query under a first condition;

determining a second execution plan of the query under a second condition; and

displaying the first and second execution plans concurrently to enable comparison of the execution plans.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein displaying the first and second execution plans comprises displaying the execution plans in a graphical user interface.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein displaying the first and second execution plans comprises displaying the execution plans in a graphical user interface having a first screen to display the first execution plan and a second screen to display the second execution plan.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein displaying the first and second execution plans comprises displaying a collection of icons to represent steps of each of the execution plans.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

determining a third execution plan of the query under a third condition; and

displaying the first, second, and third execution plans concurrently to enable comparison of the execution plans.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein determining the first execution plan comprises determining an execution plan for the query in cooperation with a first version of a software module of a parallel database system.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein determining the second execution plan comprises determining an execution plan for the query in cooperation with a second version of the software module of the parallel database system.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein determining the first execution plan comprises determining an execution plan for the query in a system having a first arrangement.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein determining the second execution plan comprises determining an execution plan for the query in a system having a second arrangement.

20. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein determining the first execution plan comprises determining an execution plan involving a table having a first content.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein determining the second execution plan comprises determining an execution plan involving the table having a second content.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the second content contains statistics.

23. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a graphical user interface; and

a controller to determine an execution plan of a query based on emulation data that emulates an environment of a target system in which a parallel database system is implemented,

the controller to display a representation of the execution plan in the graphical user interface.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the emulation data comprises cost-related information including a number of nodes in the target system and a number of CPUs in each node.

25. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the emulation data comprises cost-related information including a number of virtual processors running in the target system.

26. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the emulation data comprises cost-related information relating to costs of doing operations in the target system.

27. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the emulation data represents a target system having a multi-node parallel processing system.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the emulation data represents a target system running plural virtual processors for handling access to the parallel database system.

30. (Previously Presented) An article comprising one or more storage media containing instructions that when executed cause a controller to:

determine an execution plan of a query for a parallel database system;

display the steps of the execution plan in a graphical user interface; and

depict parallel execution of steps of the execution plan in the graphical user interface,

wherein depicting the parallel execution of steps comprises displaying plural elements corresponding to concurrently executing plural steps on respective processors of the parallel database system.

31. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 30, wherein the instructions when executed cause the controller including an optimizer to determine the execution plan of the query.

32. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 30, wherein the instructions when executed cause the controller to receive environment information to emulate a target database system.

33. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 32, wherein the instructions when executed cause the controller to determine the execution plan of the query based on the environment information.

34. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 30, wherein the execution plan comprises a first execution plan, wherein the instructions when executed cause the controller to further:

determine a second execution plan of the query for the parallel database system;

display the steps of the second execution plan concurrently with the steps of the first execution plan in the graphical user interface.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the plural elements comprises displaying the plural elements side-by-side to indicate concurrent execution of the respective steps.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising displaying other elements in sequence with the plural side-by-side elements to indicate sequential execution of other steps corresponding to the other elements.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein determining the first execution plan comprises determining the first execution plan in a parallel database system environment, determining the second execution plan comprises determining the second execution plan in the parallel database system environment, and displaying each of the first and second execution plans comprises displaying plural elements corresponding to concurrently executing plural steps on respective processors of the parallel database system environment.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein displaying the plural elements comprises displaying the plural elements side-by-side to indicate concurrent execution of the respective steps.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising displaying other elements in sequence with the plural side-by-side elements to indicate sequential execution of other steps corresponding to the other elements.

40. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 30, wherein displaying the plural elements comprises displaying the plural elements side-by-side to indicate concurrent execution of the respective steps.

41. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 40, further comprising displaying other elements in sequence with the plural side-by-side elements to indicate sequential execution of other steps corresponding to the other elements.